

**From:** Bushong, Linda (MDE) **On Behalf Of** Leikert, Howard J (MDE)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 10, 2012 4:06 PM  
**To:** MDE-SchoolNutrition  
**Subject:** Tuesday News from MDE 041012

Another week has passed us by and some interesting information has come my way. So let's start:

- 1) Michigan Farm to School Grant - The Michigan State University (MSU) Center for Regional Food Systems (CRFS), formerly the C.S. Mott Group for Sustainable Food Systems (Mott Group), works with farmers, distributors, and food service directors across the state to begin and expand farm to school programs by providing technical assistance, resources, research, and policy education. With funding from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, CRFS is implementing the three-year Michigan Farm to School: Scaling Up and Branching Out project. A big piece of the project calls for the implementation of Michigan's first farm to school grant program! This grant program aims to aid food service directors, early child care program procurers, and farmers work through some of the challenges associated with starting and implementing farm to school programs. Not only will grantees receive funding to purchase equipment and local food products, but the MSU CRFS also provides hands-on technical assistance, training, and networking opportunities throughout the grant year. Schools and childcare programs must have 50% free and reduced participation rates in order to apply. Here is the link for the grant: <http://mifarmtoschool.msu.edu/index.php?id=348>.
- 2) Food Safety Webinar - USDA and the School Nutrition Foundation will be offering the fourth webinar in their produce safety webinar series on Wednesday, April 18, 2012, at 2 p.m. ET, "Managing Food Safety When Handling Fresh Produce in Schools." More information about the webinar content is available online. Webinar Registration for "Managing Food Safety When Handling Fresh Produce in Schools," April 18, 2012, can be found at the following link: <http://www.schoolnutrition.org/Content.aspx?id=16956>.
- 3) Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) – We encourage schools to actively look into being a sponsor or site for the SFSP. Most of the students you serve free and reduced price meals to during the school year do not have a viable option to replace that food during the summer. SFSP can help fill that void. The application for SFSP is now live and available online at: <https://mdoe.state.mi.us/megsplus/>. SFSP also has a website separate from our school nutrition site. It is [www.michigan.gov/sfsp](http://www.michigan.gov/sfsp).
- 4) The 6 Cent Rule - We are still anxiously awaiting guidance on the certification of your menus for the 2012-2013 school year so that you can receive an additional 6 cents in reimbursement. We expect to also receive guidance at the same time on how we will monitor food service programs during this coming transition year (2012-2013) to the new meal pattern. One of my

staff members, Melanie Brummeler, Consultant Manager, will be on the National Committee that will formulate the new review process (to replace what we now call CRE). It is expected to be fully in place for the 2013-2014 school year.

- 5) The HealthierUS School Challenge (HUSSC) – Congratulations to Kinawa School in Okemos Public Schools for being awarded the most recent HUSSC award (Bronze). Kinawa becomes one of just 66 Michigan schools who have achieved HUSSC status and 1 of only 3098 nationwide!! Lynna Hassenger (Food Service Director) and her team at Okemos have done a great job in making this happen. There is still a lot of activity around the HUSSC award so we encourage you to continue to work toward the goal of being a HUSSC school. Congratulations to Lynna and all of the Directors at schools who have achieved HUSSC status. It takes work and a lot of cooperation to make this happen, and your efforts are appreciated.

Hope your Spring Breaks went well (or are going well!!). I am sure there will be more information for you next week.

*Howard Leikert, MBA, SNS*

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*Each April, Michigan celebrates the Month of the Young Child. Go to [www.miaeyc.org](http://www.miaeyc.org) to learn more.*